



Convocation of Anglicans in North America Missionary Diocese of CANA West

470 Eagle Dr. • El Paso, TX 79912 • Ph (915) 204-7509 • E-Mail: BishopFelixOrji@aol.com

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Felix C. Orji, Bishop

Miscellaneous Diocesan Policy Decisions

(June 11, 2015)

To avoid being distracted from our work of ministry by Satan and by the persistence of sin (yes, even in the beloved of Christ!), I have made the following policy decisions:

1. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, I want all parishes to use similar, if not identical, language in matters of parish and diocesan governance, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - “Senior Warden,” not Pastor’s Warden;
 - “Junior Warden,” not People’s Warden;
 - “Vestry,” not PCC; and
 - “Rector,” not Vicar (except for parishes where a Rector has not been appointed by the Bishop).
2. Immediately following the selection of new vestry persons at each parish’s Annual Parish Meeting, the Rector shall announce his selection for Senior Warden. Immediately following the Annual Parish meeting, the newly-constituted Vestry shall meet for the following three purposes: a.) to elect (from within the newly-constituted vestry itself) a Junior Warden; b.) to appoint a qualified Secretary; and c.) to appoint a qualified Treasurer. There shall no longer be congregational elections for these three positions. It is the responsibility of the Vestry to elect or appoint individuals for them.
3. Rectors will be the Chairmen of their respective Vestries. Senior Wardens may assist Rectors in matters of administrative leadership.

4. Rectors should be signatories for their respective parishes' financial operating accounts. Rectors must be ethically responsible in their use of Church funds. Disciplinary action will be taken against clergy or lay people who mismanage church funds.
5. Rectors' wives will serve as Presidents of their respective parishes' women's groups, and will appoint their own Assistants. Other women's ministry positions may be elected and/or appointed in accordance with parish custom or tradition. The Rector's wife may permit a designated Assistant to lead the women's group, but will remain its President.
5. Each diocesan parish's corporate bylaws will be subject to evaluation and approval by my office to ensure their conformity with Scripture, Diocesan and Provincial Constitutions & Canons, Anglican practice, and good and godly order. Vestries will be responsible for amending their parishes' respective corporate bylaws, as may be necessary, in furtherance of this policy.
6. I direct that each parish pay its tithe to the Diocese as a matter of spiritual discipline and partnership in the gospel.
7. Pay close attention to the *Clergy Code of Conduct* (see the Diocesan website for this document), and familiarize yourself with the Procedures for Canonical Disciplinary Proceedings in the Missionary Diocese of CANA West. Our diocesan Ecclesiastical Trial Court has adopted the aforementioned procedures for use in the trials of clergy in violation of the Constitutions & Canons of our diocese or of the ACNA. These documents will promote good health for the church and success for our shared gospel ministry.

The ultimate purpose of all these decisions and polices is to ensure order in both our parishes and our diocese, freeing us to fulfill our calling in the Great Commission to make disciples of Christ.

And it is important for you to note that in accordance with CANA's policies on ordinations and placement of rectors, women can neither be ordained to the

priesthood nor installed as rectors of parishes in the Missionary Diocese of CANA West.